

Message Text

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1442

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: CHAIRMAN MAO ALWAYS LOVED TENG

1. SUMMARY. THE JULY 15 PEOPLE'S DAILY PUBLISHES ON PAGE THREE AN ARTICLE BY YET ANOTHER PSEUDONYMOUS AUTHOR IN THE PRO-TENG STABLE, ONE HAN LI. HAN'S ARTICLE IS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE THESIS THAT THE GANG OF FOUR'S ALLEGORICAL ATTACKS ON TENG HSIAO-PING AS A CONFUCIAN OFFICIAL RESTORED TO POWER WENT DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO THE WILL OF CHAIRMAN MAO. MAO, AUTHOR HAN ASSERTS, "PERSONALLY RECOMMENDED" THAT (THE STILL UNNAMED) TENG BE RESTORED TO HIS POSITION. THE ARTICLE CONVENIENTLY OVERLOOKS EMBARRASSING PROBLEMS OF TIMING, HOWEVER; MAO'S "RECOMMENDATION" PRESUMABLY WAS MADE IN THE 1971-72 PERIOD WHILE HIS ACCUSATION THAT TENG NEVER UNDERSTOOD CLASS STRUGGLE WAS LEVELLED DURING 1975-76. END SUMMARY.

2. CONTINUING ITS INTENSIFYING BRING-BACK-TENG PUBLIC OPINION CAMPAIGN, THE JULY 15 PEOPLE'S DAILY CARRIES ON PAGE THREE
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AN ARTICLE BY YET ANOTHER PSEUDONYMOUS AUTHOR IN THE PRO-TENG STABLE, ONE HAN LI.

3. HAN'S ARTICLE TAKES OFF FROM AN EXPOSE OF THE UNDERLYING MOTIVATION BEHIND A FEBRUARY 13, 1976 ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN PEOPLE'S DAILY UNDER THE PEN NAME LI CHENG. THAT ARTICLE, ENTITLED "WE MUST CONTINUE TO CRITICIZE CONFUCIUS," FOCUSED

ON THE RESTORING TO POWER OF DISMISSED OFFICIALS.

4. ASKING RHETORICALLY WHO WAS THE TARGET OF LI CHENG (AND THE GANG OF FOUR'S) WRATH, HAN LI IN DUE COURSE SUPPLIES THE ANSWER: "SUPERFICIALLY THEY WERE OPPOSING THAT LEADING COMRADE WHO AT THE TIME WAS HANDLING CENTRAL WORK" (I.E. TENG HSIAO-PING).

5. BUT HAN LI CHARGES THAT THE TRUE SPEARHEAD OF THE GANG'S ATTACK WAS POINTED NOT AT TENG, BUT AT CHAIRMAN MAO, PREMIER CHOU, CHAIRMAN HUA, AND LEADING COMRADES RESPONSIBLE FOR WORK AT THE CENTER, IN THE PROVINCES, AND IN THE MUNICIPALITIES. IN SUPPORT OF THIS CONTENTION, HAN LI ASSERTS THAT "EVERYBODY KNOWS" THAT IT WAS CHAIRMAN MAO WHO "PERSONALLY ADVOCATED (TENG'S) RESUMPTION OF HIS POST." IN OTHER WORDS, THE GANG OF FOUR WENT DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO MAO'S WILL IN URGING THAT TENG BE STRUCK DOWN A SECOND TIME AS AN UNREPENTANT CAPITALIST ROADER.

6. COMMENT: THE HAN LI ARTICLE THEREBY ADVANCES ONE STEP FURTHER THE REHABILITATION OF TENG BY DIVORCING MAO FROM RESPONSIBILITY FOR TENG'S DISMISSAL. BUT HAN'S CASE, HOWEVER CLEVERLY ARGUED, STILL EVADES THE CENTRAL ISSUE: THE FACT THAT "EVERYBODY KNOWS" WITH EQUAL CERTITUDE THAT MAO, WHETHER OR NOT HE HAD PERSONALLY RECOMMENDED TENG'S RETURN IN 1973, HAD PUBLICLY BLASTED TENG DURING 1975-76
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AS A PERSON WHO HAD NEVER UNDERSTOOD CLASS STRUGGLE. UNTIL THIS STATEMENT IS NULLIFIED -- EITHER BY PRESENTING IT AS A FABRICATION OR AS THE UTTERANCE OF AN AILING AND POSSIBLY SENILE CHAIRMAN -- THE CASE FOR TENG'S RETURN IS INCOMPLETE.
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